

CycleWight Committee, 26 March 2025

Present: Alan Bennett (AB), Peter Dyer(PD), Helen Jones (HJ), Neil Oliver (NO), Malcolm Ross (MR), Tim Thorne (TT), Matt Whittaker (MW), Alex Lawson (AL).

Apologies: Claire Franklin (CF), Mick Watts (MW), George Wilks (GW),

1. Island Roads/IWC impasse

Previous CycleWight minutes record our view that cycle track maintenance is not as it should be and that disagreement between Island Roads and the IWC is preventing many things that are in the pipeline. Phil Jordan has replied to TT and we are considering his reply. TT said that these issues are being dealt with at more senior levels in the Council and Island Roads. An impasse appears to have been reached.

Local media would be interested to pick up the story and PD has drafted a CycleWight press release. TT is in touch with a Cowes individual with a background in civil contracts who has looked at the roads contract. To go public might cause animosity but might get things to happen. So would the Cowes Town Council want to take the issue on their agenda? TT & NO will follow up. Ventnor council have matters which are not being resolved which may be a consequence of the IWC/Island Roads dispute. HJ will follow up with a Ventnor councillor. **Update** Meeting now arranged.

MR said the Green Link project involves much larger sums than for our cycle track issues. TT argued that money has been allocated for work taking place in the Station Road area in Wootton while the need to repair & resurface the track between Merstone & Hurringford should be prioritised. MW & PD both urge that we go public in whatever channel is available.

2. Merstone CycleFest

Courtesy of Gift to Nature our Merstone CYCLEFEST is on the Saturday 3 May 2025.

TT has circulated invitations including to MPs, and has had replies from Isle Access and from the ReCycle & Bicycle who will both attend. Others to invite are Bikeworks mobile mechanic Nick Blake, Wight Bike Eco Solutions Jeff Smith at Merstone, the Unicyclists, the Biosphere group, Bike Hire company VOI would be good to have present: TT to invite via MW. Portaloos will include an accessible unit, and Isle Access have agreed to share some cost. We need to put out a notice asking for contributions to the cost from passers by. ****Send invites as above****

PD will update the promotion poster for the event and we need to circulate this soon. ****ALL****

Rides leaders will be arranged and Joe Robertson MP invited as noted previously. Food & drink are yet to be sourced, and agreed to approach Scarrots Lane and last year's coffee purveyors. MM will check things on the day at the venue. The centre post will be removed for vehicular access. A photo gallery from last year is here <https://photos.app.goo.gl/eU4XAadXfbfJs82o9>

3. Riverfest: Saturday 10 May

This event at Newport Quay based on the Riverside Centre is taking place again on Saturday 10 May. MW will find up more information.

4. Cycle Counters & cycle paths

It is disappointing that due to cost the IWC is not deploying cycle counters. Up to 20 were supported in the past. When LCWIPs and the IGL are implemented in the future it will be desirable to provide counters. Maybe local councils including Cowes and Newport may wish to fund these. AB noted a 12 month hire of a cycle counter including processing of the data is advertised online for £800.

To be followed up and to contact Cllr Phil Jordan. ****TT****

5. Together for Mission Zero meeting

TT attended the Mission Zero meeting on behalf of CycleWight as CF was unavailable. Travel is one among several elements in the project including housing, employment and industry. While these other areas have progressed the transport group has made little progress as so many factors are involved making initiatives very difficult to move forward. Will Ainsley, the Chair, felt that the group should disband which was accepted by those attending.

6. IWC

Recently an Active Travel budget of approx £370k was allocated to the IoW as part of funding for councils in the Southeast. The funding comes from Active Travel England (ATE), and is intended to fund new walkways and cycle lanes. IWC has asked Island Roads to recommend schemes to use the funding. CycleWight has requested that they are consulted when the list has been compiled. NO said the Cowes Place Plan route from Cockleton Lane to Place Road then to the Northwood recreation ground should be pushed forward. The route could go via Broadfields Avenue & past the cricket pitch. Others agreed that it should be feasible and TT added that little progress has been made on this.

As regards LCWIPs for Ventnor and West Wight we feel these should follow the approach of those already been adopted such as the The Bay LCWIP because of their design etc.

There is a thought that the Quality Transport Partnership could be brought back by the IWC. This would bring together for example bus, train, ferry & commercial vehicle operators, as well as cycling, walking & bus user groups. It would be a good platform to communicate issues affecting transport users. This most probably be within the remit of the new Local Transport Planner,

7. AOB

NO said Bristol Council is changing controls on pedestrian crossing to prioritise those waiting to cross. This has been on CycleWight Facebook. PD supported any move to give more priority to walkers & cyclists. TT noted that Mick Watts achieved a change in the crossing control at Newport High Street over Coppins Bridge. MW said we should bring the idea to Newport & Carisbrooke Business Association, which NO agreed to do.

Kiddical Mass will be in June during the Biosphere which is 28 June to 16 July, and will be in Ryde starting in Spencer Road (see January minutes). MW said KEERT have costumes for carnivals and may bring those.

MW said KEERT have just won an award as Best Green Eco Business. TT will include an item in CycleWight newsletter.

Next Meeting: April 2025